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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The law for People's Councils (Soviets) and for the "Construction of Socialism" in Rumania, as passed by the Grand National Assembly, has completely upset the former administrative structure of the country. The former local administrative organs are now replaced by small elected assemblies, the "People's Councils", corresponding to the Soviets of the USSR. The old departmental administration (Prefects, Sub-Prefects, etc.) as well as the communal administrative organs (Communal Councils, Mayors, and the like) are suppressed.
2. This administrative change forms part of a plan for the "progressive Sovietization" of Rumania. The Bucharest Government calls it "construction of Socialism" in Rumania.
3. Under the new law, each administrative unit (Department, District, or Commune) has its own People's Council, elected for a four year term. These People's Councils are the local organs of the state's power. At the same time, they are also the sole administrative organs, each in its own territory. The People's Council has jurisdiction over economic, social, and cultural affairs. It sets up and carries out the local economic plan and the local budget, taking cognizance of the general economic plan of the Republic and the general budget of the Republic. It also maintains public order and watches over the personal lives of the citizens.
4. Like members of the Grand National Assembly, members of the People's Council are immune from arrest unless the Council itself sanctions such action.
5. Each People's Council elects an Executive Committee, which plays an important role. The president of the Executive Committee is at the same time president of the People's Council. He is in effect the all-powerful master of local administration.

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6. The People's Councils are arranged in hierarchical order, running from those in small villages to the Grand National Assembly, which is, in fact, just the first People's Council of the Republic. A Council in the hierarchy has the power to annul decisions of a lower Council (that is, one inferior in the hierarchy). Similarly, an Executive Committee in the hierarchy can annul the action of an inferior Executive Committee - but not the action of an inferior People's Council. The Grand National Assembly can recall Popular Councils if their acts "are harmful to the working people".
7. The law also contemplates People's Assemblies, which are to include all the citizens in a given "sector". In theory, this People's Assembly can control the People's Council. There is good reason to believe, however, that the Assembly will prove a mere figurehead.
8. Immediately after the creation of the People's Councils, the Communist Government of Bucharest suppressed the former gendarmerie. It was replaced by the "People's Militia". This force was placed at the disposal of the People's Councils.
9. In addition to this administrative change, Decree Number 5 of the Presidium creates a system of autonomous surveillance, within each state enterprise or organization, and within each cooperative. Each organization of this sort has a responsible surveillance (security) officer and a corps of guards. Their number depends on the importance of the enterprise. This decree defines their obligations as follows: "To guard the secret of the surveillance plan, dispositions, effectives, and armament, as well as facts regarding production achieved or work performed in the enterprises or organizations defined by the article." Decree Number 44 provides for volunteer firemen in each organization.

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